

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01

AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-11

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /104 W

----- 044481

R 020453Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 843

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL TAIPEI 0687

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TW, CH

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SALE OF F-104G AIRCRAFT TO ROC

REF: STATE 016994

1. ROC AIR FORCE (ROCAF) STATES SHELDON AIRCRAFT PRODUCTS CORPORATION HAS NOT OFFERED TO SEL F-104G AIRCRAFT TO ROC NOR HAS THERE BEEN CONTACT BETWEEN FIRM AND ROCAF. SINCE US EXPORTERS FREQUENTLY COME TO TAIWAN TO MAKE INITIAL PRESENTATION WITH EXPORT LICENSE IN HAND, SAME ROCAF OFFICIALS CONJECTURE SHELDON MAY WANT TO BE SIMILARLY ARMED BEFORE MAKING OFFER.

2. NEVERTHELESS, ROC IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING LIMITED NUMBER OF F-104G AIRCRAFT AS ATTRITION REPLACEMENTS. AT PRESENT, ROC INVENTORY OF G MODEL IS DOWN TO 39 AIRCRAFT. IN EFFORT TO MAKE UP DEFICIENCY, ROC IS NEGOTIATING A CASH PURCHASE WITH WEST GERMANS OF THREE FRG-OWNED F-104G'S (AT REPORTED US\$800,000 EACH). ROC F-104G SQUADRONS HAVE SHORTFALL OF 10-12 PLANES IN AUTHORIZED VERSUS FLYABLE AIRCRAFT. PARTICULARLY AFFECTED IS THE THIRD TAC FIGHTER GROUP BASED AT CCK AIR BASE. BEFORE DELIVERIES OF CO-PRODUCED F5E AIR-

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CRAFT ARE MADE, AN ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL 8 TO 10 AIRCRAFT

WILL BE LOST BY ATTRITION. EVEN WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE,
F5E'S WILL NOT BE REPLACEMENT FOR F-104G'S WHICH ARE
ROC'S ONLY AIRCRAFT APPROACHING ALL-WEATHER INTERCEPTER.
ACCORDINGLY, ROCAF ACQUISITION OF 10-12 F-104G AIRCRAFT
FOR ATTRITION REPLACEMENT WOULD APPEAR VERY LOGICAL, AND
WOULD NOT INCREASE THE AUTHORIZED FORCE STRUCTURE O*
ROC AIR FORCE.

3. MOU ESTABLISHING F-5E CO-ASSEMBLY/CO-PRODUCTION WHICH
PROVIDES FOR DECLARING EXCESS "EQUAL NUMBER" OF F-100/
*-104'S AS F-5E'S COME OFF LINE WOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY
PURCHASE OF F-104G'S TO FILL SQUADRONS TO&E'S.
PRESUMABLY, F-100'S (92 CURRENTLY IN INVENTORY) AND
F-104A'S (20 ON HAND AND WITH VERY RESTRICTED AIR DEFENSE
CAPABILITY) WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FIRST.

4. COUNTRY TEAM CONCURS THAT ROCAF HAS VALID REQUIRE-
MENT FOR*LIMITED NUMBER (10-12, DEPENDING ON PRICE
AND TERMS) OF REPLACEMENT F-104G'S. BELIEVE ROC
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING SHELDON CORPORATION
OFFER IF MADE TO THEM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT SALES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TAIPEI00687
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740259/aaaacdpi.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 016994
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE SALE OF F-104G AIRCRAFT TO ROC
TAGS: MASS, TW, CH, US, SHELDON AIRCRAFT PRODUCTS CORP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005